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Reviews and Notes

Chronicles of the Cape Fear River, 1660-1916. By JAMES SPRUNT. Second Edition, Raleigh, 1916; pp. xii, 732.

It will no doubt be a surprise to many readers to find a volume of this size filled with the history of this small district; it is hardly more than a large community. The district is quite as fortunate in having Mr. Sprunt as one of its citizens as in having two and one half centuries of interesting history. As early as 1663 commissioners sent from the Barbadoes examined the North Carolina coast with a view to settlement. Almost a century previous, 1585, the old English sea dog, Sir Richard Greenville, had coasted along the sandy shores of Cape Fear. In 1660, or thereabouts, adventurers from Massachusetts established a trading post on the Cape Fear river. The first permanent settlers arrived May 24, 1664. The colony was thus over a century old when the Revolution broke out; two centuries old in time of the Civil war. Some four hundred men went from here in 1740 to fight the Spaniards on the Spanish Main. During this period the Cape Fear river bank was dotted with fine old plantations. On the headwaters of the river were Scotch refugees from the Jacobite rebellion in Scotland, from Glencoe and Culloden. The story of Flora McDonald is both interesting and pathetic, to the thousands of Scotch descendants in the Northwest. The material development of the country from 1790 to 1860—canals, railroads, steamboats—the growth of institutional life, form a significant story and in this volume it is mingled with enough reminiscent incidents, such as a visit to Wilmington in 1852 by Joseph Jefferson, to make the whole interesting. By far the greatest interest, historically, attaches to the chapter dealing with the Civil war. The Cape Fear coast, guarded by Fort Fisher, was the most difficult section on the whole Confederate seaboard to close against blockade runners. Fort Fisher was the last gateway of the Confederacy to the outside world. More than one hundred of these blockade runners are named

and many of their exploits are told. One, the *Siren*, made 64 trips through the blockade. Altogether it is a volume which will hold one's attention and repay the time spent in reading. No effort has been made to test it for accuracy, except in a general way, but the writer has evidently put in many years in a faithful search for materials. The sources are indicated.

Colonial Virginia Its People and Customs, by MARY NEWTON STANARD; published by J. B. Lippincott Co. 1917; pp. 376.

This is a sumptuous volume from the standpoint of the bookmaker and is not less attractive either from that of the reader or historian. The author has become saturated with the rich life of the Old Dominion in colonial times. The author has gathered her materials from the files of the old *Virginia Gazette*, the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, *William and Mary College Quarterly* and the many collections of public records yet preserved in the county towns. The author has in her work held in mind a picture of the olden times rather than what is usually understood by the term history. Such chapter heads as The Virginia People; Houses, from Log Cabin to Mansion; Household Goods; Social Life; Courtship and Marriage; Dress, Theater, Outdoor Sports; Education, Books, Music, Pictures; Religion; and Funeral Customs show the scope of the book. Many readers will perhaps be surprised to find in Virginia just as great a desire for education and religion as there was in New England. Life in Virginia was much fuller than in any other of the colonies, just as her statesmen of that period were farther-sighted. The famous old families of Virginia are often in the story and thousands of their descendants scattered in the West will be pleased to visit their ancestral homes in this volume. The author's style is well-suited to the subject. More than two score full page photogravures illustrate the text. It is one of the most attractive and readable volumes published during the year. By all means it should stand side by side with Bruce's *Institutional History of Virginia* to give color and life to the picture.